(Signed) Eduard KUKAN
Permanent Representative
of Slovakia

(Signed) Victor BATIOUK
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine

(Signed) Denko MALESKI
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Macedonia

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

From the outbreak of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, the United Nations Security Council, through its relevant resolutions, has been actively pursuing the achieving of a lasting peace settlement of the crisis. The General Assembly has also contributed to this effort, notably by adopting two resolutions, at its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions (46/242 of 25 August 1992 and 47/121 of 18 December 1992, respectively), on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this concerted effort of the United Nations major significance has been attached to a whole array of preventive and enforcement measures, adopted by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, including the imposition of wide-ranging trade and economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

The implementation of these sanctions has undeniably had a significant positive effect, facilitating the efforts of the international community to contribute to a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the conflict based on the principles spelt out in the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. Acknowledging their utmost importance, the States neighbouring the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), as well as other States from the region, have rightly perceived their primary and indispensable responsibility in assuring the strict application of those provisions of Security Council resolutions 757 (1992), 787 (1992) and 820 (1993) which introduce restrictions on and/or interruption of trade and economic relations and communications with and through the FRY.

By introducing the necessary internal legal and administrative measures to implement fully the provisions of the above resolutions, these countries have made an invaluable contribution to the concerted action of the United Nations, despite their heavy adverse effect on their national economies. This contribution has been recognized by the Security Council and a number of individual States concerned have been commended by the Council, by decision of its Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia, for the measures they have taken to comply with its resolutions (S/26040 and Add.1).

The application of such a comprehensive and strict set of trade and economic sanctions has placed an extraordinary burden on these States, given the combination of a number of factors. One of them is the specific key geographical situation of the area under sanctions in terms of the existing transport infrastructure and communication links of eastern and south-eastern Europe with the rest of the continent. Another is the precarious economic situation of most of these States in a period of major political, economic and social transition to democracy and a market economy, which has been seriously affected by the heavy economic losses sustained as a result of the implementation of the sanctions. An additional element is the direct financial expense these States incur as a result of putting into operation and maintaining an elaborate administrative system of monitoring and control over the strict implementation of the sanctions by virtue of their geographical adjacency to the FRY.

The effect of the above factors on the economic situation of the neighbouring States and other States from the region has already produced grave negative consequences of far-reaching character for their economic development. In some of them, which are especially vulnerable owing to their specific geographic situation and/or the overall state of their economies, this effect has already jeopardized political and social stability.

In the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, and most notably in the spirit of its Article 49, it is a moral, political and legal obligation of all Member States to join in affording mutual assistance in carrying out the measures decided upon by the Security Council. It is therefore of utmost importance for the States adversely affected by the trade and economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to have their problems addressed positively by the international community, before the United Nations General Assembly, and to receive urgent and highly needed economic assistance, through the appropriate channels, in order to help them overcome their grave economic difficulties.

Given the exclusively economic nature of the problems experienced by this group of States in applying the trade and economic sanctions against the FRY, and the fact that the deliberations on the issue are without any prejudice to the efforts of the United Nations to achieve a peaceful and lasting political solution to the Yugoslav crisis, it is proposed that the additional agenda item, entitled "Economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)", if included in the agenda of the forty-eighth session by the General Assembly as requested, be allocated to the Second Committee.